

Claims

- [c1] A base pad for supporting a product, the base pad comprising an elongated hollow tubular member having a plurality of segments joined along fold lines, the tubular member being folded along the fold lines into a polygonal frame having corners and a product supporting surface.
- [c2] The base pad of claim 1 further comprising pockets at one or more corners, the pockets being configured to receive vertical stacking and cushioning posts.
- [c3] The base pad of claim 1 further comprising holes disposed in the product supporting surface for receiving product feet.
- [c4] The base pad of claim 1 wherein, prior to folding, the tubular member is linear and comprises substantially V-shaped cut out sections interposed between the segments with one of the fold lines being located at the apex of each cutout section.
- [c5] The base pad of claim 1 wherein the tubular member comprises outer and inner walls joined at their ends to define a hollow space therebetween, the outer wall com-

prises a horizontal section and a vertical section joined at a right angle to define an outer apex, the outer wall horizontal section forming a bottom surface of the base pad, and the inner wall comprises a first vertical section joined at a right angle to the product support surface to define an inner corner and a top section extending from the first vertical section to the outer wall vertical section.

- [c6] The base pad of claim 5 wherein the outer wall horizontal section has an integrally formed bead extending upward toward the product support surface.
- [c7] The base pad of claim 5 wherein, at one or more corners, portions of the top section have been removed to create pockets for receiving vertical stacking and cushioning posts.
- [c8] A method of making a base pad for cushioning and supporting a product comprising the steps of:
 - forming a tube into a desired cross-sectional shape;
 - cutting V-shaped sections out of the tube; and
 - folding the tube at the V-shaped sections and bringing the opposite ends together to form a base pad.
- [c9] The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of attaching the opposite ends after they are brought together.

- [c10] The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of forming a pocket in one or more corners of the frame for receiving vertical stacking and cushioning posts.
- [c11] The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of forming holes in the frame to allow feet of the product to protrude into the frame to position the product on the base pad.